

School of Arts and Sciences
SUNY Buffalo State

Minutes

November 21, 2025 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ ROCK 124

- I. Call to order – Called to order at 3:05pm
- II. Presentation of the Agenda
- III. Presentation of minutes from the September 19, 2025 meeting – any corrections ? None
- IV. Approval of the Consent Agenda – motion to accept the consent agenda – adopted
- V. Remarks of the Speaker – Brief recap of the concerns being raised about how our programs are being evaluated (KPI) and a candid discussion of the challenges encountered (Banner 9 rollout, the state of the academic catalog, no more office supply purchases, etc.)
- VI. Report from the Dean –
 - Academic Catalog and Banner 9 – Academic Catalog is still inaccurate, including missing programs. Julian has communicated with the Provost's office many times, including yesterday. Corrections were supposed to be made immediately. The Dean's office has been trying very hard to get this fixed. Banner 9 still has ongoing issues, and there were lots of complaints from students as well. Students could not request an official transcript from Banner 9; they had to go into legacy Banner (while they are trying to apply to grad schools etc.). The module hasn't been installed yet. We are still waiting for answers from IT and students have expressed concerns. There are knowledge base articles that are being updated to read about what is going on with Banner 9.
 - Sabbaticals for 26 – 27 – Twenty-five proposals were submitted. Only 3 were for the full year. They are still being reviewed and administration is determining how many can be approved. The number of sabbaticals that can be supported are based on full year applications. More news to come. Feb 1 is official notification deadline but hoping to have news sooner.
 - Recruitment and retention – good conversations in Chair's meeting – a document produced based on recruitment and retention hopefully has been shared by your Chair (ask for it). Recruitment and retention are everyone's responsibility. Chairs / departments are already doing great things. Letting students know about support services. Major for a day – several departments doing that. Also noted that a lot of the students need help outside of the classroom – food and housing insecurity.
 - Update on the Interim President's meeting – Buffalo State has a plan to address the budget deficit, but Buffalo State is not meeting its targets. There is still about a \$16 million budget deficit. The Interim President has said that the university must reduce 80 FTEs per year to be on target. Buffalo State is behind on the proposed 25-26 numbers. To meet these goals, the university is looking to cut 12.5 from Academic Affairs this year. There have been program deactivations that are

- leading to retrenchment and there are likely to be further program deactivations that could lead to retrenchment. These programs have not yet been identified.
- Q – who is making the retrenchment decisions? 1st wave was programs that were legacy programs or just sitting on books but had virtually no students. Last May another handful was announced – identified through KPI analysis and SUNY weighed in on the decisions. This round of cuts will follow another KPI analysis – looking at those numbers and discussing those factors. Wayne Lynch is here from SUNY also looking at those things. Majors, retention, graduation rate, etc. Faculty salaries etc. They don't have firm benchmarks. It is holistic – General Education seats are important etc.
- Q – Other campuses may be using Open SUNY for their GE programs. Is Open SUNY really ready for thousands of students?
- Q – we have been told at Senate that retrenchment is not cost effective. The jobs immediately being lost are adjuncts. We have cut back on adjuncts every single semester. Doesn't think we could cut back anymore at this point. Our GE classes were 96% full! We would be cutting adjuncts teaching full classes.
- Q – what is the real process involving retrenchment? It is in UUP contract and they have to follow every single step. Buffalo State develops a plan and sends it to SUNY for approval. If approved it comes back to campus to HR. If a faculty member is retrenched, they will have at least one more year under contract.
- Q -When the program deactivations were announced last May, there was confusion and miscommunication. Those deactivations don't immediately lead to retrenchments.
- Q – All these struggles we are going through – why are we not selling the President's residence?
- A – it doesn't belong to us, it belongs to the state.
- Q – Why was Mr. Lynch sent from Fredonia?
- A – SUNY sent him.
- Q -Concern that the real deficit won't be disclosed to the candidates who are visiting campus in a couple months.

Faculty involvement – one of the concerns is losing faculty involvement. We need faculty not to be cut from senate and to take chair positions. Four months from now – please join Senate committees and Chair Senate committees.

VII. SAS Standing Committee reports (Appendix A) - Please note the curriculum calendar April 1st deadline to submissions for senate so everything needs to be sent to SAS curriculum committee by March 11th. In the past the Senate has extended the deadline but there's no guarantee this year.

No additional reports.

No additional questions.

VIII. SAS Senate Liaison report

Shared via email on Thursday. Dr. Ettestad advised colleagues to read the reports, especially the reorganization of the Senate. There is no concrete plan yet. No additional questions.

IX. SC-01 Motion to amend the SAS Bylaws (Appendix B)

- Motion from the Steering Council to amend the SAS Bylaws. Sue introducing motion.

Remove Contingent Welfare committee and instead add a contingent faculty member to the Steering council. The reason for this motion – there are not enough people running to form a committee.

- Q: If there are so few people do we still need this committee at all?
- Comment: I think we should have at least some representation for contingent faculty.
- Comment: Some SAS members have never heard of this committee and expressed an interest in joining.
- Comment: If there has been a communication issue, try again?
- Motion to refer back to the Steering Council. Seconded. The motion passes.

X. New Business

- Quick announcement – there is a student sale in the Burchfield Penney.

XI. Adjournment

- Adjourned 4:02pm

The next SAS meeting will be Friday, February 20, 2025, 3pm in **Bulger 217**.

Appendix A: SAS Standing Committee Reports

SAS Bylaws and Elections Committee (Jason Grinnell, chair)

BYLE continues to review SAS bylaws and prepare for spring elections.

SAS Curriculum Committee (Julie Wieczkowski, chair)

Over the last four review periods, the SAS Curriculum Committee has reviewed 17 course revisions (THA 106, 215, 226, 227, 230, 231, 234, 327, 330, 331, 350,400, 416, 426, and 470; CAS 301/PSY 301; and CAS 401; and COM 360); one course revision with GE designation (IDE 358 with Critical Thinking and Reasoning designation); one new undergrad course (COM 360); one new grad course (DSA 502); two minor revisions (Dance & Theatre minor and Digital Music Production minor); one BA program revision (THA); and two new minor programs (Ceramics and Metals/Jewelry).

Spring 2026 SAS Curriculum Committee Review Schedule

- Start on Thursday, end on Wednesday, 2-week cycle
- NB: April 1, 2026 is the last deadline for the Senate Curriculum Committee for proposals to be reviewed Spring semester. This pertains to everything (new course proposals, course revisions, Gen Ed, program proposals, deactivations).
- This means that, for spring consideration by the Senate, all proposals, etc. need to be submitted to SAS by March 11.

SAS Submissions By:	SAS Committee Reviews:
Winter submissions	January 29 - February 4
February 11	February 12 - February 18
February 25	February 26 - March 4
*March 11 (SAS deadline)	*March 12 - March 18
April 1	April 2 - April 8
April 15	April 16 - April 22
April 29	April 30 - May 6

SAS Personnel Committee (Jennifer Ryan-Bryant, chair)

The Personnel Committee is now reviewing the dossiers of five candidates applying for promotion to full professor. We will submit our recommendations to the dean's office before Thanksgiving.

Appendix B: Motion to Amend the Bylaws

SC-01: Advanced with a positive recommendation

Motion by the Steering Council (on behalf of Roy Bakos) to amend the SAS Bylaws to remove the Contingent Welfare Committee as a standing committee and add a full- or part-time contingent faculty member to the Steering Council, who will have voting rights in SAS. The member will be elected by those contingent faculty currently under contract or scheduled to teach in the semester after the election within the School of Arts and Sciences. The term will be for one year, with no limit to re-election.

The following sections will be amended in accordance with the motion above:

- Article I. 2.
- Article IV. 1.
- Article VI. 1. a
- Article VI. 5.

Rationale:

Due to cuts across SAS, contingent faculty have not been able to fill the SAS Contingent Faculty Welfare Committee. This motion to amend the SAS bylaws will replace the standing committee with a permanent contingent faculty member on the SAS Steering Council, who will retain voting rights within SAS, and who will be able to advocate for contingent faculty members. This will ensure that contingent faculty will continue to have a voice in SAS.